IN THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine,

2   comprising:

3   means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for

4   selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character;

5   means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and com-

6   pounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a

7   Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification

8   and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a

9   selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the

10   first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic

11   components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's

12   membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;

13   means for process of said input information into internal codes for said Chinese

14   characters, said process means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding proc-

15   esses based on said stored data; and

16   means for display providing indication of correspondence between elements of

17   said means for input and said display; wherein ~~input of said information presents~~ further

18   character selection information <u>is suggested</u> in response to said input.

1   2.   (Original)   The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is

2   selected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touchscreen.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen comprises a virtual keyboard comprising a representation of keys, each said key representation assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

5. Cancelled

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all Chinese words.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is orthographic.

8.   (Original)   The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is se-

lected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a

component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

9.   (Original)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the order for the display

of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese

characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previ-

ous selection.

10.   (Original)   The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies

are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific opera-

tor.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine,

comprising the steps of:

(a)   inputting a selection for an initial stroke of a Chinese character, wherein

the initial stroke is traditionally the first stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese charac-

ter by hand, and ~~reviewing~~ suggesting candidates based upon (1) the identification and

order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a se-

lected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first

character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic compo-

nents of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's member-

ship within various subsets of Chinese characters ~~displayed~~ and displaying said candi-

11   <u>dates</u> in response to said initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one

12   character or at least one component;

13   (b)   selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a

14   further stroke, wherein the further stroke is traditionally the next stroke drawn when

15   drawing the Chinese character by hand, or a displayed component; and

16   (c)   selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character,

17   such that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.

1   12.   (Original)   The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said non-

2   word associated character automatically appends a word separator.

1   13.   (Amended)   The method according to claim 11, wherein said ~~machine com-~~

2   ~~prises a means for input of information, said means for input~~ <u>step of inputting</u> further

3   comprising ~~means for~~ selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a com-

4   ponent and a character~~; a means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese~~

5   ~~characters and compounds; a means for process of said input information into internal~~

6   ~~codes for said Chinese characters, said process means including a plurality of Chinese~~

7   ~~character encoding processes based on said stored data; and a means for display provid-~~

8   ~~ing indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said dis-~~

9   ~~play~~<u>.</u>

1   14 – 16 Cancelled.

1   17.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~wherein said~~ <u>further</u>

2   <u>comprising providing a</u> component <u>that</u> is orthographic.

1   18.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~17~~ <u>13,</u> wherein said com-

2   ponent is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental

3   strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.

1   19.   (Original)   The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the dis-

2   play of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chi-

3   nese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the

4   previous selection.

1   20.   (Original)   The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequen-

2   cies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific

3   operator.

1   21.   (Previously Presented)   The system according to claim 1, wherein the data

2   related to Chinese characters further includes indicators of said characters' membership

3   within various subsets of Chinese characters.